朝練に1時間以上、遅刻した日。
監督さんには口をきいてもらえず、
その日は一日中、草むしり……。
ちょっとだけ涙が出た……。

寺嶋裕二

Ace of Diamond

ダイヤのA

エース

9

寺嶋裕二

Shonen Magazine Comics

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KC MAGAZINE
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エース
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Ace of Diamond

エース不在という不安要素を抱えながらも
名門復活を懸けた青道高校の地区予選大会がスタート!
初戦では降谷の先発に続き、沢村も遂々公式戦デビューを果たした。
続く三回戦も圧勝し、好調な滑り出しの青道。
だが、次の相手は完璧な制球力で
精密機械の異名をとる楊投手擁する明川学園。
初回、降谷の弱点を突き、先取点を寡わんと牙を剥く!!

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA ①～

以下続刊

COVER ILLUSTRATION★YUJI TERAJIMA
COVER DESIGN★KAZUHIRO FUKAUMI+tent sato

2008 2
KC MAGAZINE

9
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

主な登場人物

倉持洋一

沢村と同室。沢村をイジメるのが好き。鉄壁の守備力。二年生。ショート。

小湊亮介

青道一の技巧派プレーヤー。見た目と裏腹に毒舌。三年生。セカンド。

川上憲史

リリーフ経験豊富な抑えの投手。気の弱いところがある。二年生。

丹波光一郎

変化球が持ち味の投手。エースに覚醒しつつあった時、死球で負傷。三年生。

滝川・クリス・優

野球知識豊富で的確に後輩を指導。故障のため記録員として大会に臨む。三年生

増子透

パワー系スラッガー。巨漢だが走塁で無口。沢村と同室。三年生。サード。

伊佐敷純

強肩強打、すべてがフルスイング。見た目も口調も怖い。三年生。センター。

結城哲也

青道高校野球部主将。プレーでチームを引っ張るタイプ。三年生。ファースト。

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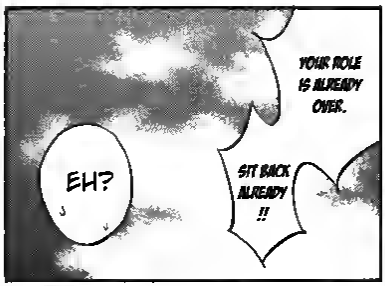
SPECIAL/ SENIOR AND JUNIOR • • •186

1
TOP OF THE 5TH INNING
1 OUT, RUNNERS ON 2ND AND 3RD.

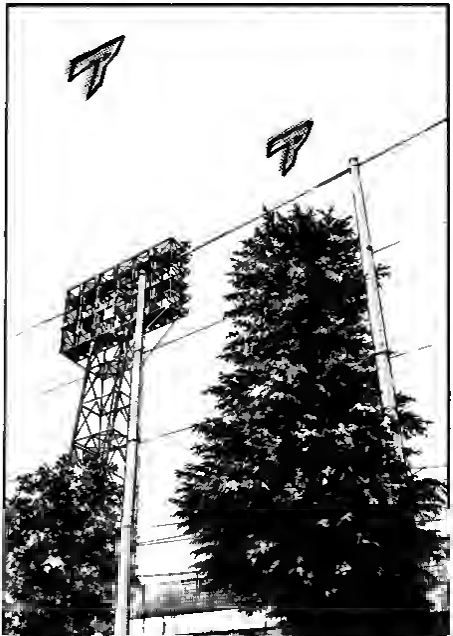
UP TO BAT, KOMINATO HARUICHI.
HAHA... HIS FIRST TIME BATTING.
WITH ALL HIS MIGHT OR HOW SHOULD I SAY IT.

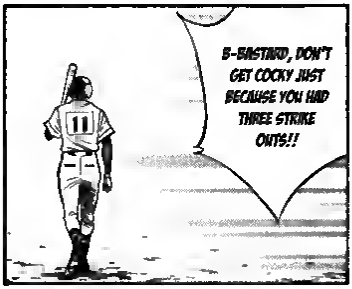
THE FIRST-YEARS
ARE SHOWING A GOOD PLAY.
CHAPTER 67 / ROAD


EH?
YOUR ROLE IS ALREADY OVER.
SIT BACK ALREADY !!

WAS SWITCHED OUT.
GOOD!! I'LL CONTINUE!!

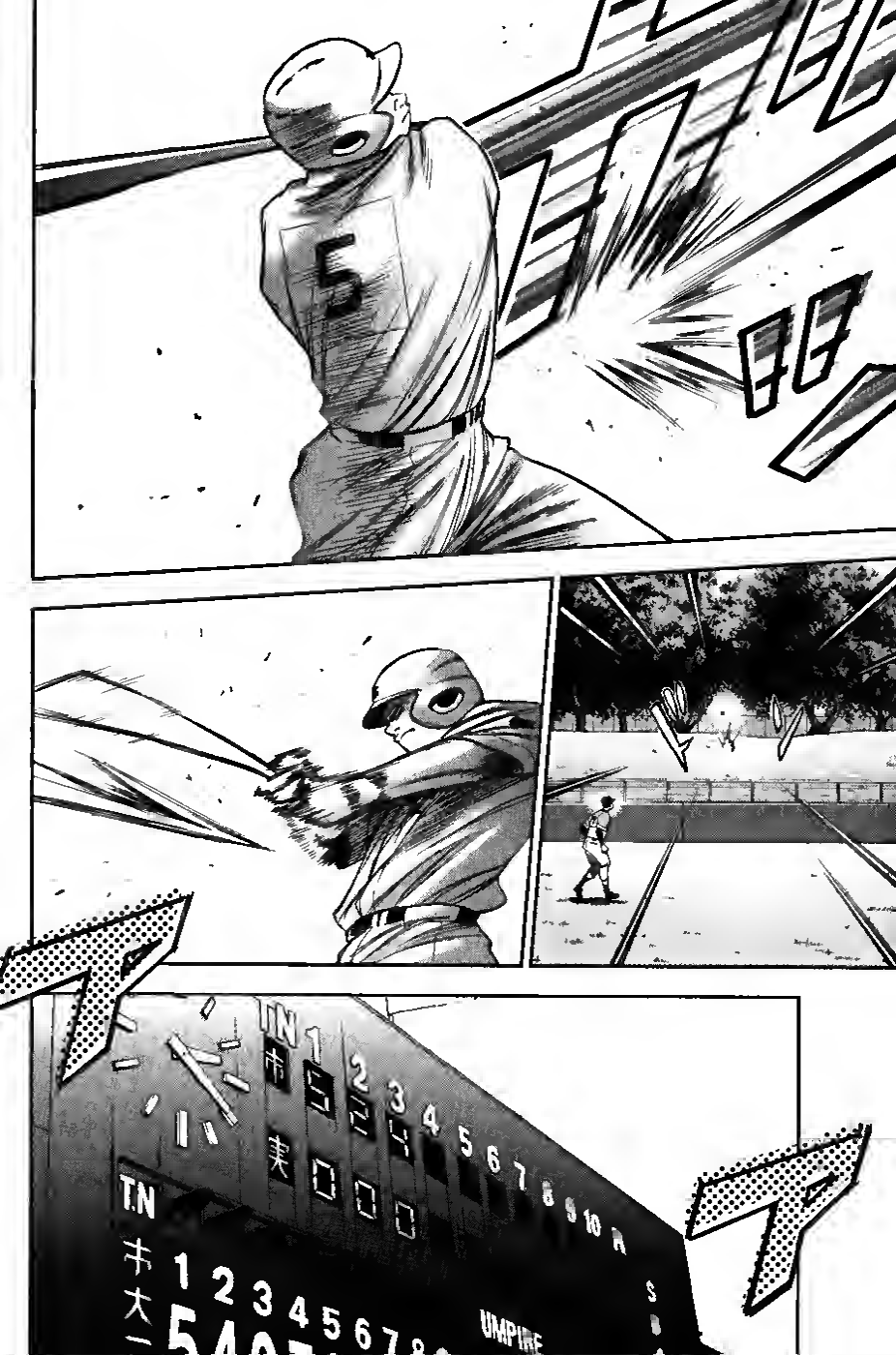
SO DON'T GET IN THE WAY.
NEXT... IS MY TURN...




B-BASTARD, DON'T GET COCKY JUST BECAUSE YOU HAD THREE STRIKE OUTS!!

SHUT UP!
COACH!! FEEL FREE TO SWITCH ME IN FOR HIM ANYTIME!!

AT THE SAME TIME
TACHIKAWA PUBLIC STADIUM


5
T.N
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 R
UMPIRE

ICHIDAISAN HIGH SCHOOL'S COACH TAHARA TOSHIHIKO
ICHIDAISAN HIGH SCHOOL'S ACE MANAKA KANAME

ICHIDAISAN HIGH SCHOOL IS SO STRONG —!!
GETTING INTO THE BEST 8 IN THE SPRING KOUSHIEN WASN'T JUST FOR SHOW!!
HIS BALL GOT A SHARP CUT.
AND ABOUT EVERY BATTER WAS ALSO GOING AFTER THE LOW SLIDER.
BUT SEIDOU'S BATTING ORDER ISN'T TO BE LOOKED DOWN ON EITHER!!
WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?
I GUESS THE FAVOURITE IS ICHIDAISAN!
IN THE QUARTER FINALS THEY WILL MEET SEIDOU.

NOW, I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE GAME.
JUST WHO WILL BE VICTORIOUS?
おい!おい!
SO THEY'RE GOING TO CLASH IN A FINAL CONFRONTATION, HUH.
ICHIDAN WON IN THE FALL, AND SEIDOU IN SPRING
おい!
THANKS!!
MANAKA, PERFECT!!
LEARNED FROM THE REGRET AND IS FLYING EVEN HIGHER NOW!
BUT MANAKA
LETTING MANAKA, WHO'S STILL EXHAUSTED FROM THE SPRING TOURNAMENT, BE THE STARTING PITCHER IN THE TOKYO TOURNAMENT, WAS THE COACH'S MISTAKE, NAMELY MINE....

WE'LL BE RETURNING THE FAVOR FROM SPRING,
SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL.

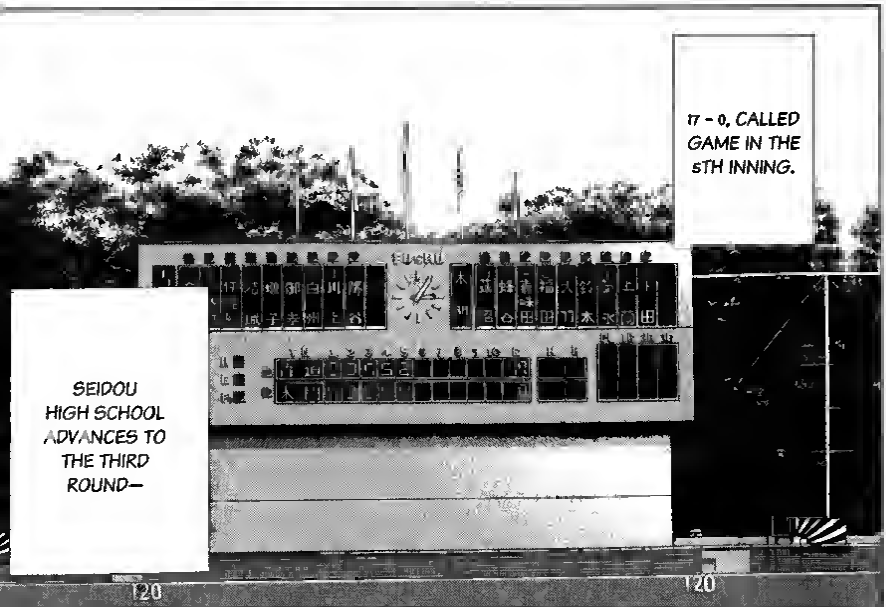
GAME SET——!!
YEAH!! HE ENDED IT WITH THREE STRIKE OUTS!!
NICE PITCHING, KAWAKAMI ——!!
HUH? WE'RE ONLY IN THE 5TH INNING BUT IT'S OVER ALREADY?

MAIMON
AH...
BOW!
THANKS!!
LINE UP PROPERLY.
MAIMON

YOU TOO, FIRST YEAR BOY.
EH?
MAIMON
I HAVE NO REGRETS, HAVING GIVEN MY BEST.
KEEP ON FIGHTING!
MAKE SURE TO GET TO KOUSHIEN!!
KEEP WORKING HARD!
I... I SEE.
LIKE US, THEY WERE AIMING FOR KOUSHIEN.
MAIMON
THE LOSING TEAM
IS ENCOURAGING THE WINNING TEAM...!?

I'LL WORK HARD FOR YOUR PART ALSO.
SO PLEASE GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT!!
EH?
YES! I'LL WORK HARD WITH MY LIFE ON THE LINE!!

YOU DID WELL THE PAST THREE YEARS.


17 - 0, CALLED GAME IN THE 5TH INNING.
SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCES TO THE THIRD ROUND—

120

カーン
カーン
YOU TWO PUT IN TOO MUCH STRENGTH.
WHILE IT WAS THE ALL IMPORTANT GAME,

AS WE ADVANCE, THE OPPONENT WILL INVESTIGATE US.
PITCHING LIKE TODAY WON'T WORK ANYMORE, FURUYA...
SAWAMURA... IT WAS ALL FINE UNTIL THE DOUBLE-PLAY, BUT AFTER THAT, THE 2 FOUR BALLS WERE UNNEEDED.
STOP MAKING A FUSS IN THE BALL PEN!! IT'S ANNOYING!!
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THE BATTER WAS AN A ROD
DO YOU KNOW OF THE WORD CONTROL?
CRITICISM MEETING
THEIR LINE-UP DOWERED UP FROM SPRING.
AND THEIR ACE MANAKA GOT THE FINISHING TOUCH TOO...

I'M AFRAID IN THE MATCH WITH ICHIDAI
THE COMPLE-TION OF OUR PITCHERS WILL BE DECIDING THE OUTCOME.
TWO PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT THEY WOULDN'T GET SCOLDED
FIRST WE HAVE TO WIN THE NEXT GAME.
...
THERE'S STILL 2 MORE GAMES...

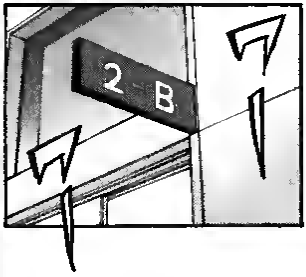
I HOPE THEY QUICKLY SETTLE THE ADVANCEMENT INTO THE KOUSHIEN LIKE THAT～
WAH～ THE FIRST MATCH WAS ASTONISHING～
CONGRATULATIONS, PRINCIPAL!!
Did you see it?
ビクッ
WHY NOT LET THEM REST FOR TODAY...
HA... HAHA... BUT I MUST SAY... THE GAME JUST ENDED AND YOU'RE TRAINING AGAIN?
THIS IS JUST THE PLAYER'S FREE TIME
EH?

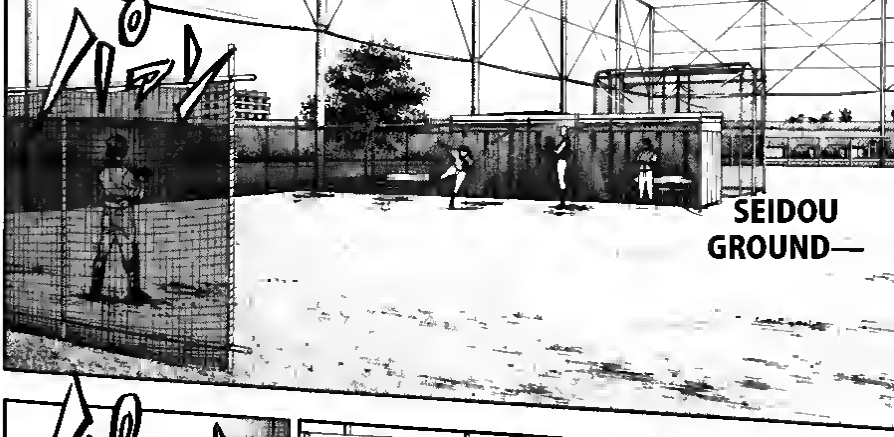
WE ONLY TOOK THE FIRST STEP ON OUR LONG ROAD.
RIGHT NOW
WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLAYER THAT GETS DELIGHTED ABOUT THAT.

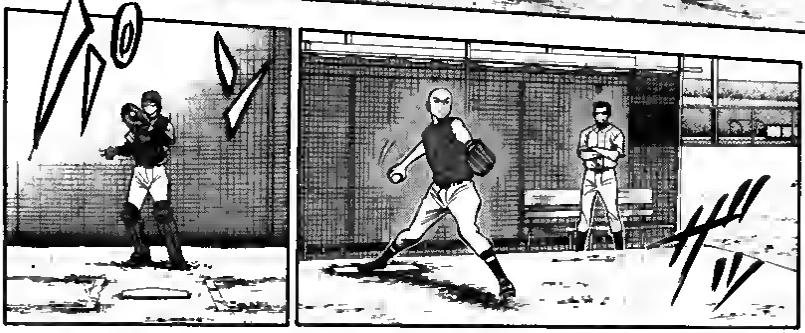
ダイヤのA エース
AH... THERE!
SEE, THAT BOY!!
S- SOMEHOW HE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM ON THE MOUND.
BUT HE WAS REALLY AMAZING
I'M SURE HE'LL GET MORE ATTENTION IN THE FUTURE
投手の心得
AH- THAT BOY IS THE NUMBER 19!
CUTE- HE LOOKS LIKE A GIRL
AH! UNFAIR! I HAD MY EYES ON HIM FIRST!!
MAYBE I'LL BE CHEERING FOR HIM BY MYSELF!!
3RD YEAR CHEERLEADERS

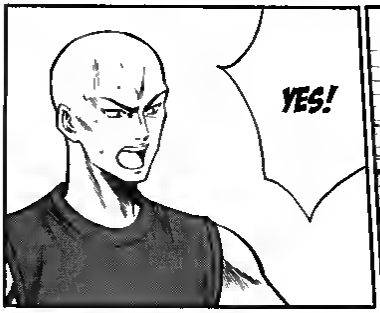
S-SAWAMURA-KUN IS MAKING STRANGE SOUNDS AGAIN!!
HIS EYES ARE OPEN AND FOR SOME REASON HE'S SMILING
AH, THE SOUND CHANGED.
AH...
TETSU~~ HIT A HOME RUN.
MASUKO'S STOMACH IS GROWLING~
SHIT ...
ISHISHIKI, HOWL!!
YOU'VE GOT A GAME TOMORROW, RIGHT?
WE'LL COME TO CHEER YOU ON ONCE SUMMER VACATION STARTS.

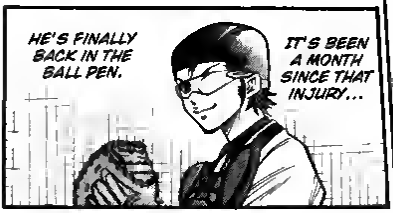
CHAPTER 68/ HAPPY APPROACH!?




SEIDOU GROUND—




YES!


HE'S FINALLY BACK IN THE BALL PEN.
IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE THAT INJURY...

WHILE YOU'RE GETTING THE FEELING BACK, DON'T OVERDO IT...
WHEN YOU'RE WARMED UP, HAVE MIYUKI CATCH FOR YOU.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, DURING HIS TIME AT MIDDLE SCHOOL
TANBA-SAN WAS ALWAYS MANAKA-SAN'S BACKUP...
THE COACH TOLD HIM TO BE BACK IN FORM UNTIL THE GAME WITH ICHIDAISAN
BECAUSE HE WAS CONSIDERING HIS FEELINGS...
TANBA-SAN!
ONE MORE!!
ﾒｯ

NICE BALL!!
THERE'S...
IT'S GETTING BETTER AND BETTER.
...STILL A BIG DIFFERENCE COMPARED TO BEFORE HIS INJURY...
...

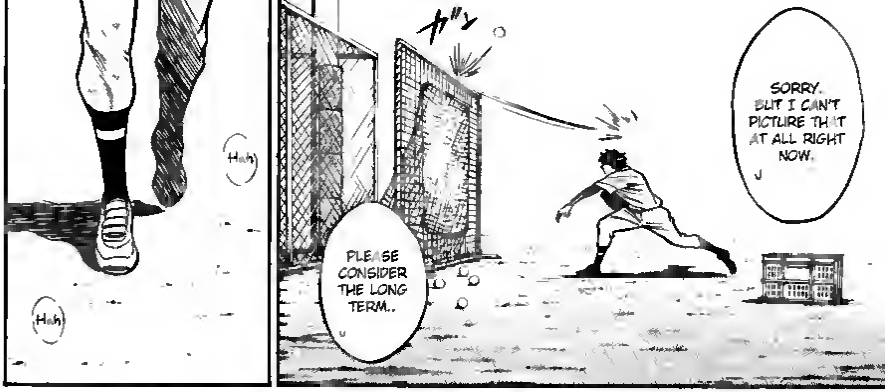
BUT... HE WENT TO A DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOL AND FINALLY GOT THE ACE NUMBER.
1
1
THE FEELINGS TANBA-SAN IS BETTING ON THIS SUMMER ARE STRONGLY CONVEYED THROUGH HIS PITCHES...
TWO MORE GAMES UNTIL THE QUARTERFINALS...

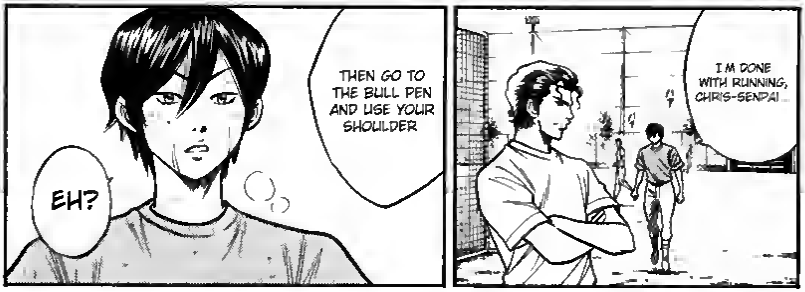
WE DEFINITELY CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE...
Huh
Huh
Huh
SO HOT...
AND HUMID
Huh
Huh
SO THE SUMMER IN TOKYO IS THIS HOT
HOW'S THAT!
THE STRAIGHT BALL OF THE EVOLVED ME!!

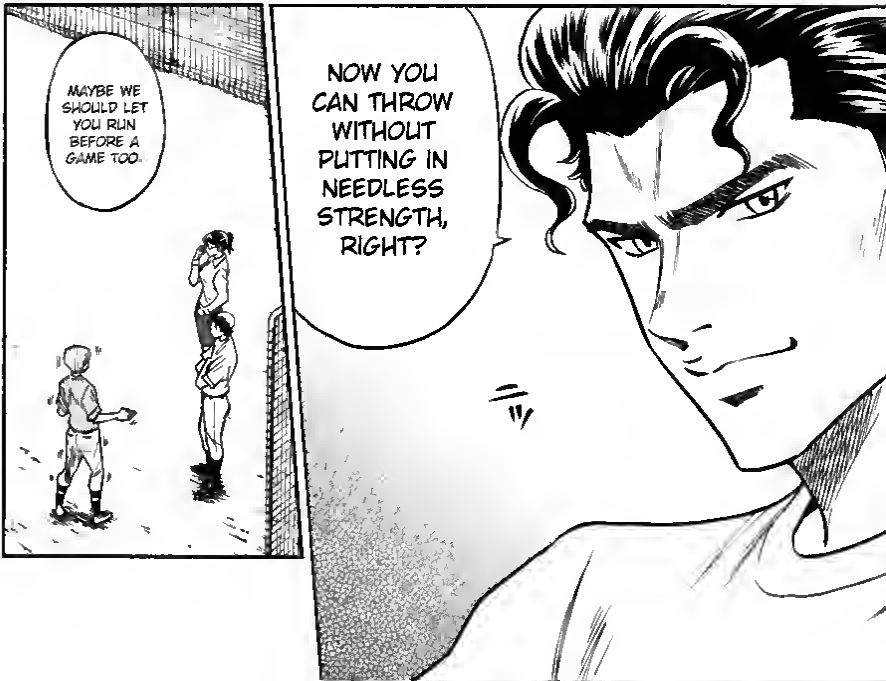
TOO HIGH. HOW OFTEN DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT.
DID YOU TEACH HIM TO GRAB THE BALL LIKE THAT?
YES.
IT'S JUST THE FOUR-SEAM, THE BASIC OF A STRAIGHT...
FOUR-SEAM
PLACING THE FINGER ON THE SEAM ON FOUR PLACES, THE BASIC GRIP FOR A STRAIGHT THROWN BY A JAPANESE PITCHER.
This!!
UNTIL NOW, HE THREW WITHOUT GIVING THE SEAMS ANY THOUGHT.
Four-Seam? Is that a foreign rapper?

SOFT JOINTS AND ELASTIC FINGERTIPS.
BECAUSE HIS GRIP IS DIFFERENT EACH TIME, IT GIVES BIRTH TO THE MOVING.
THE PITCH ZAIZEN SWUNG OUT ON WAS A FOUR-SEAM THROWN BY COINCIDENCE.
IN THE GAME WITH KOKUSHIKAN, WHERE SAWAMURA PITCHED...
パシ!

青道
TO SAWAMURA, THE FOUR-SEAM
IS JUST A VARIETY OF THE MOVING.
THAT IS IF HE BECOMES A PITCHER THAT CONTROLS HIS OWN PITCHES IN THE FUTURE...


Huh
Huh
PLEASE CONSIDER THE LONG TERM..
SORRY. BUT I CAN'T PICTURE THAT AT ALL RIGHT NOW.


EH?
THEN GO TO THE BULL PEN AND USE YOUR SHOULDER
I'M DONE WITH RUNNING, CHRIS-SENPAI.

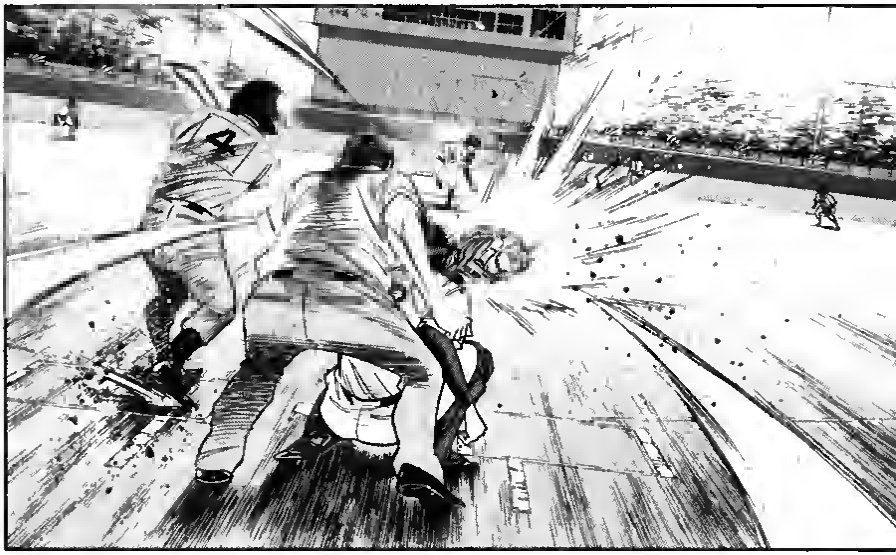

MAYBE WE SHOULD LET YOU RUN BEFORE A GAME TOO.
NOW YOU CAN THROW WITHOUT PUTTING IN NEEDLESS STRENGTH, RIGHT?

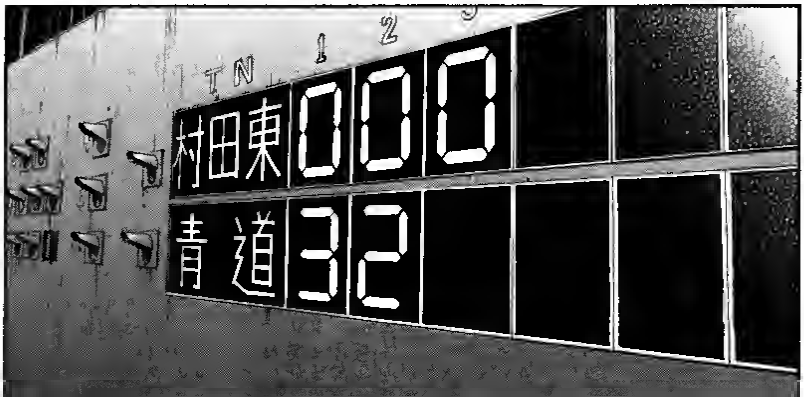
TO A FIRST-YEAR, IT MIGHT BE INTENSE DEMANDS
BUT YOUR STRENGTH IS NEEDED TO ADVANCE THROUGH THIS SUMMER.
SO THE RUNNING IS TO MAKE HIM REMEMBER THE GAME WITH OSAKA KIRIYUU ...
BECAUSE UNTIL TANBA-KUN GETS BACK,
YOU'RE OUR ACE.
PLEASE GIVE YOUR BEST!

20TH JULY—

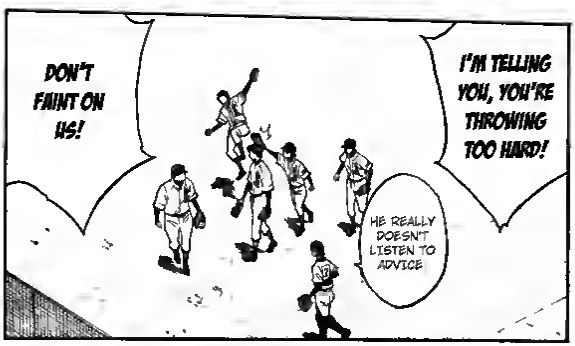
3RD ROUND
SEIDOU VS. MURATA EAST
M
PUBLIC MURATA EAST HIGH SCHOOL'S COACH ISHIBASHI TARASHI

TOKYO




村田東 000
青 道 32

I WON'T
BECAUSE I'M THE ACE


DON'T FAINT ON US!
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU'RE THROWING TOO HARD!
HE REALLY DOESN'T LISTEN TO ADVICE

AH, IT'S FURUYA! SEIDOU'S FIRST-YEAR PITCHER!!
HE'S REALLY AMAZING!!
I GOTTA COLLECT SOME NEWS ON HIM!!

H-HE...
IS GETTING MORE AND MORE LIVELY AFTER BEING TOLD HE'S THE ACE...

KUH... WHAT A BORING PITCHER
NOT PACING HIMSELF, JUST RELYING ON STRENGTH ...
MY BELOVED BASEBALL
SHOULD BE A WAY MORE REFINED AND HIGH-GRADE SPORT.

青道 3 2 0 3
AN EIGHT POINT DIFFERENCE IN THE 4TH INNING!
GUESS IT'LL BE A CALLED GAME AGAIN?
SEIDOU'S STRONG AFTER ALL~
ダイヤのA
HEY, SHUN! YOU DON'T NEED TO WATCH ANYMORE?
THAT FIRST-YEAR'S PITCH IS REALLY FAST!
MOST OF THE OUTS ARE STRIKE-OUTS
HEH
IF IT'S JUST A FAST PITCHER, THERE ARE PLENTY OF COUNTERMEASURES...

CHAPTER 69/ A PRECISE MACHINE

SEIDOU SWITCHES THE BATTERY
TOP OF THE 5TH INNING
IS THEIR POWERFUL BATTING ORDER,...
WHAT WE NEED TO BE WARY OF
SAWAMURA'S APPEAL TIME WAS USELESS ...
AND THE SECOND-YEAR RESERVE PITCHER, HUH...
THEIR ACE, WHO HASN'T PLAYED EVEN ONCE YET

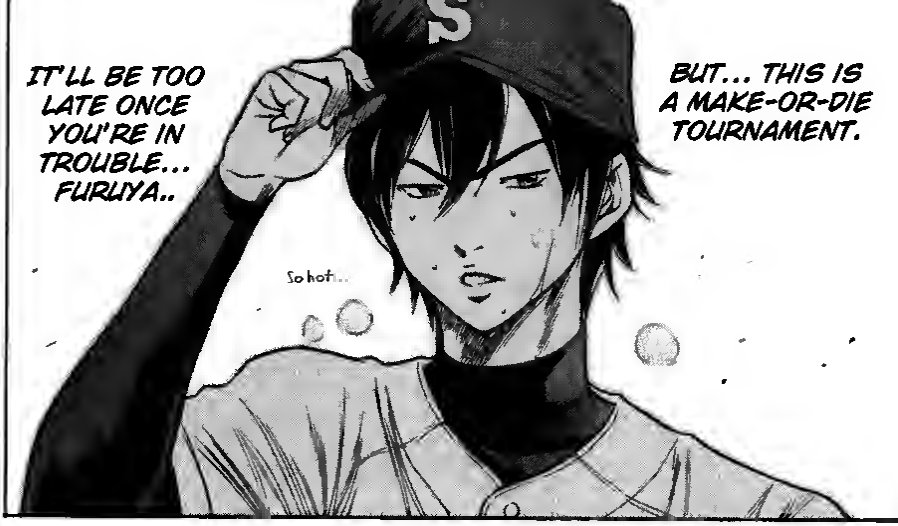
WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?
HURRY AND THROW ALREADY!!

...

H- HEY.

I'LL LET YOU THROW AS MUCH AS YOU WANT, C'MON!
YOU'RE PUMPED UP WITH STRENGTH, RIGHT?

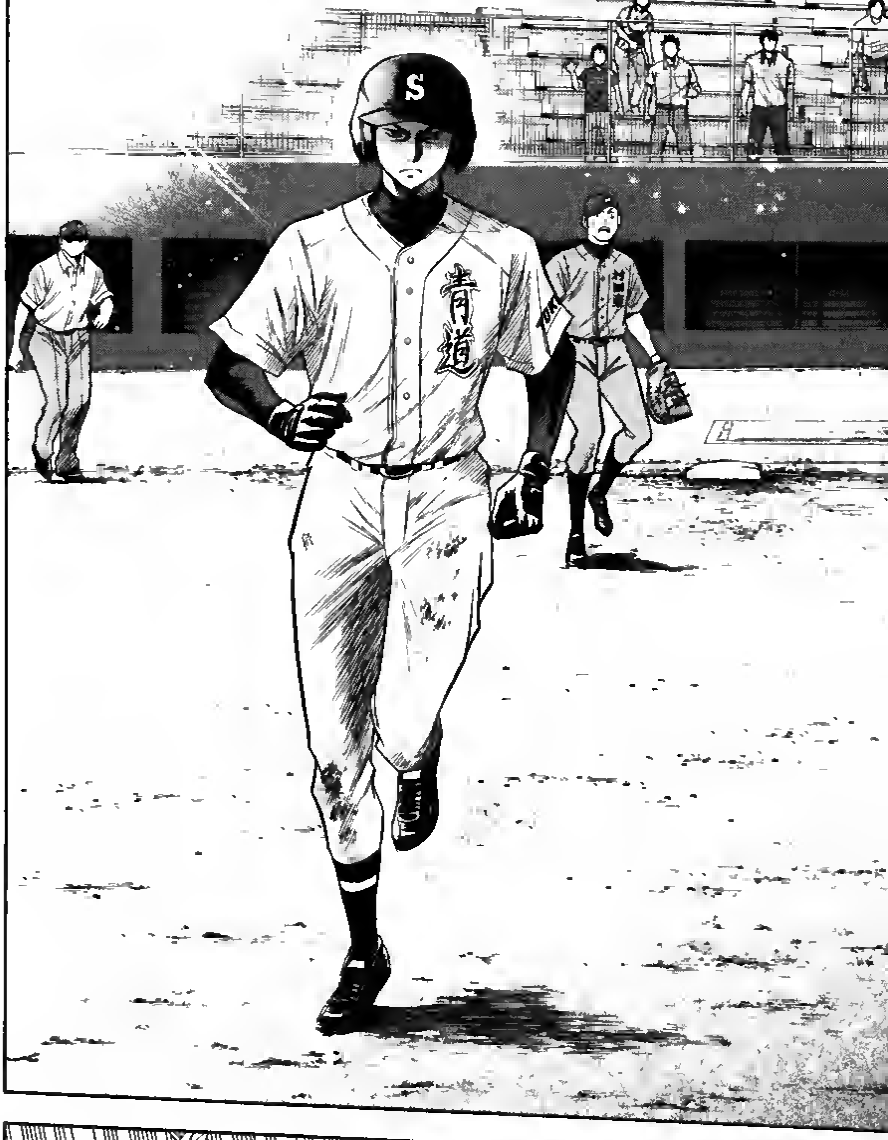
WHAT'S WITH THAT PITCHER?
HE'S STILL THROWING IN SERIOUS MODE EVEN OFF THE MOUND.
SO HE STILL HADN'T THROWN ENOUGH?
TOO HIGH!!
THREW IT LOW AND PRECISE!!
HE'S GETTING STRICTER LATELY.
A GUY WHO BARELY HAS ANY EXPERIENCE FROM HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL DAYS,
STILL DOESN'T KNOW THE WEIGHT OF A SINGLE PITCH...


IT'LL BE TOO LATE ONCE YOU'RE IN TROUBLE... FURUYA..
So hot...
BUT... THIS IS A MAKE-OR-DIE TOURNAMENT.

SAWAMURA, YOU'RE A BOTHER!!
Get away
I HAVE
HEY, IF YOU HAVE NO WILL TO PITCH THEN CHANGE WITH ME!

THEN SHOUT UNTIL YOU'RE EMPTY.
BUT THEN WHAT DO I DO WITH MY NEVER ENDING PASSION~~~!?
MUST BE A LOT OF PAIN WORKING WITH THESE TWO..

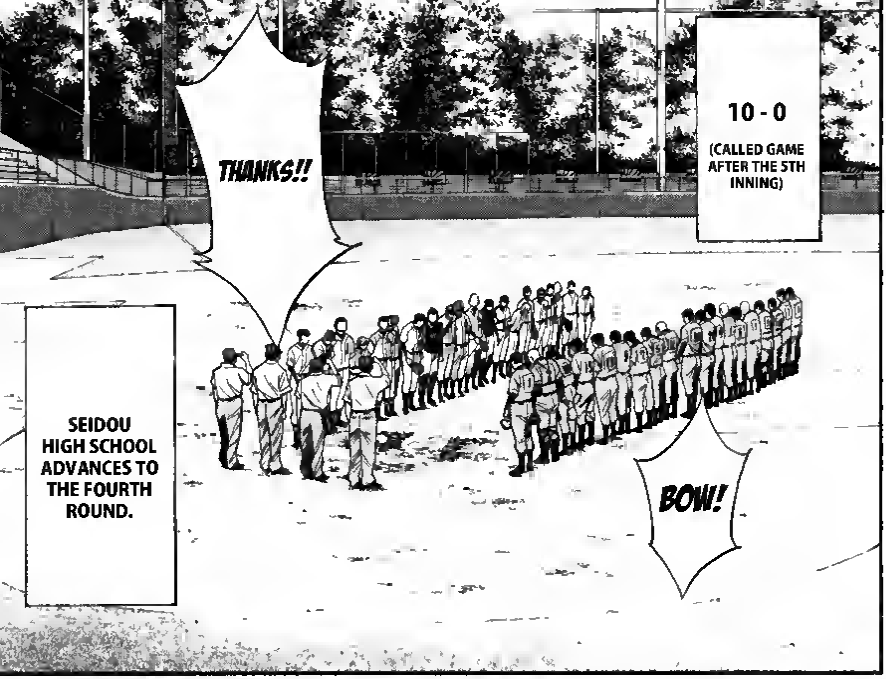
村田
ゾ ン

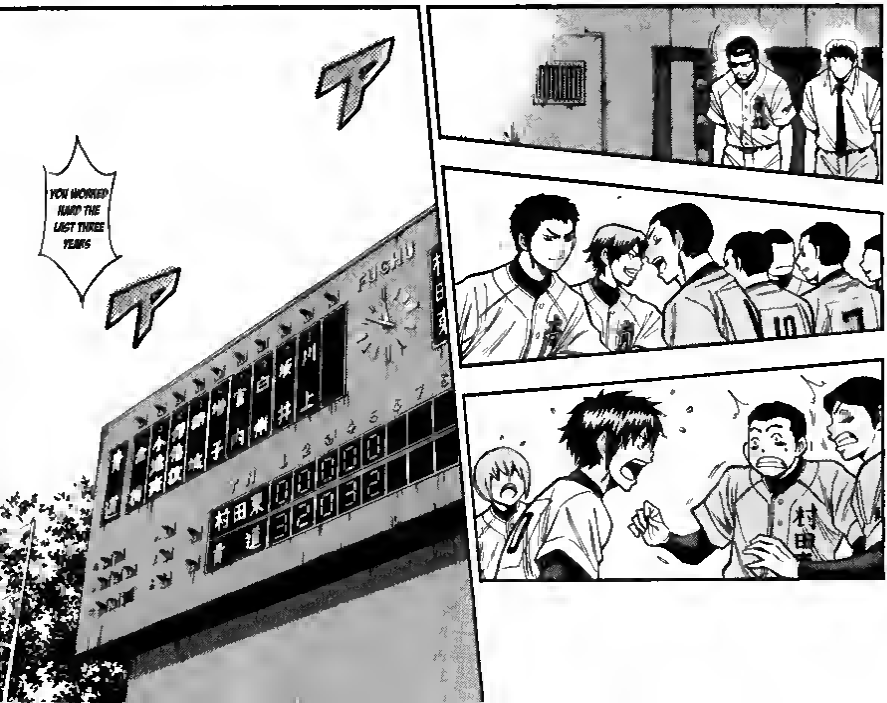

S
青道

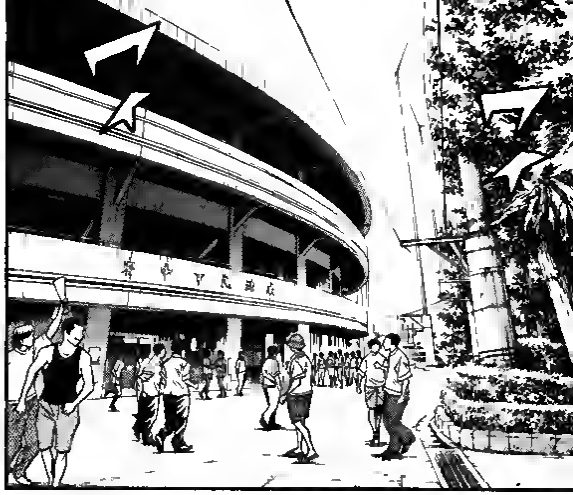
青道

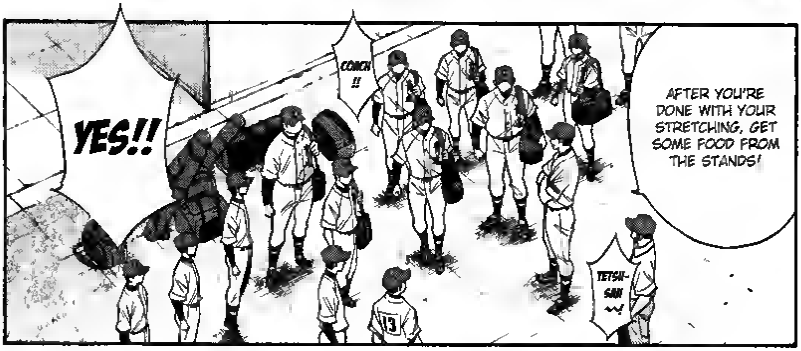
OHHHHH!! A DIRECT HIT ON THE BACK SCREEN!! TWO RUNS!!
WITH THAT IT'S A TEN POINTS DIFFERENCE IN THE 5TH INNING.
IT'S A CALLED GAME!!
TO AIM FOR A HOME RUN
PRETTY RARE FOR YOU
TETSU-SAN~!!
GOOD THING IT WORKED ...
CONSIDERING WHAT'S AHEAD OF US, I WANT OUR PITCHERS TO REST A BIT
TETSU~!!
HAH!

YOU'RE TOO GOOD,
CAP-TAIN!!
LATELY, HE'S BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE ESTEEM....
He sucks at Shogi though... (lol)
AGAIN OVER AT THE 5TH!?
SO THIS IS THE CAPTAIN'S JOB, LEADING THE TEAM.


THANKS!!
10 - 0
(CALLED GAME AFTER THE 5TH INNING)
SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCES TO THE FOURTH ROUND.
BOW!


YOU WORKED HARD THE LAST THREE YEARS
FUCHU
村田東
青道



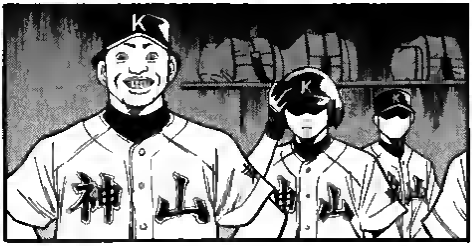


都千草 — 都大和東
都神山 — 明川

府中市民球場

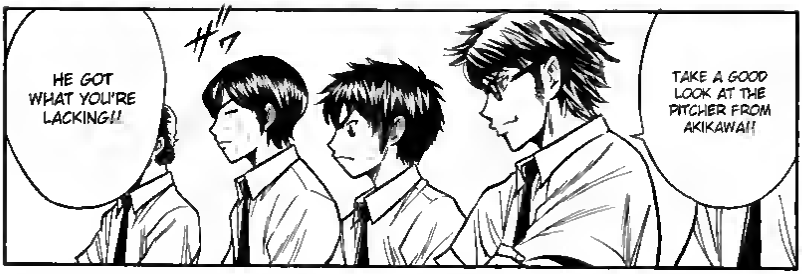
THE ONE WHO WINS THAT WILL BE OUR NEXT OPPONENT ....

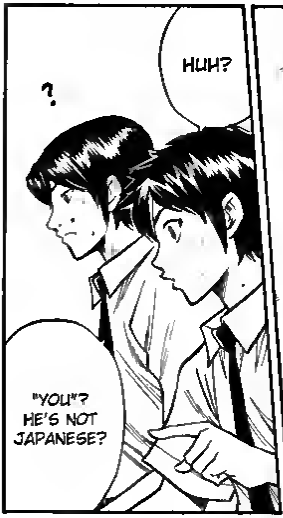
WE'LL INTRODUCE THE PLAYER FROM AKIKAWA ACADEMY.
NUMBER 1, CENTER, NINOMIYA-KUN...


神山

Akikawa
Akikawa

NUMBER 2, THIRD BASE, HASHIMOTO-KUN...
NUMBER 3, SHORT-STOP ...


HE GOT WHAT YOU'RE LACKING!!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE PITCHER FROM AKIKAWA!!


HUH?
?
"YOU"? HE'S NOT JAPANESE?

NUMBER 5, PITCHER, YOU-KUN...

HE'S A EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM TAIWAN.
YOU SHUNSHIN.
IT SEEMS HE GOT FASCINATED WITH JAPANESE BASE-BALL.
there it goes, the Chris Memo!
ACTUALLY HE CAME ON A LAN-GUAGE PROGRAM HERE, BUT...
パイ!!
AN ATMO-SPHERE THAT DOESNT LET ANYONE CLOSE
HIS BALL CONTROL HE POLISHED OVER DAYS
HE STAYS BEHIND TO PRACTICE LONGER THAN ANYONE
HIS LUST FOR SUCKING UP KNOWLEGE , BOLIT JAP - NESE BASEBALL IS GREATER THAN ANYONES
HIS NICKNAME

PRECISE MACHINE
WAH!

HOLY COW... SUDDENLY THROWING SO NEAR MY FACE..
...
...PRECISE?
BALL ...
DON'T FUCK WITH ME..
YOU' RE NOT EVEN APOLOGIZING?
TH-THAT BASTARD...

4
PER-
FECTLY
ON THE
OUTSIDE
COURSE
...
FUH...
STRIKE
—!!

INSIDE?
...OUTSIDE?
W- WHERE WILL HE PITCH NEXT!?
T- THE SAME SPOT AGAIN..

WHA—
3 CONTINUOUS PITCHES IN THE SAME SPOT!?
STRIKE
BATTER OUT!!
THE LAST ONE WAS A SLIGHTLY OUTSIDE BALL.
HEH...
NO ONE IS THAT STUPID TO THROW THREE CONTINUOUS PITCHES INTO THE SAME SPOT...

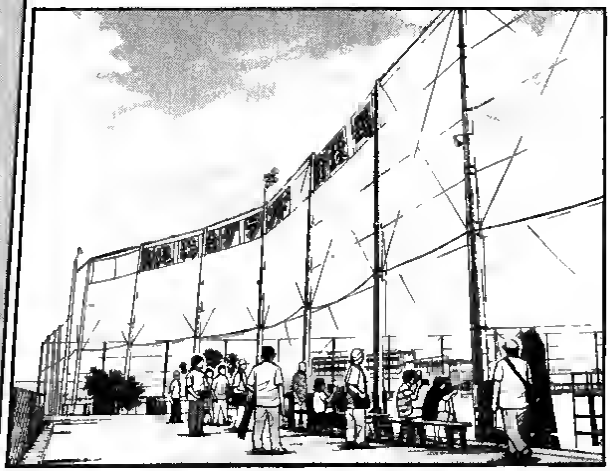
CHAPTER 70/ IT'S SUMMER

ALRIGHT!
GAME SET —!!
AKIKAWA ACADEMY ADVANCES TO THE FOURTH ROUND!!

3-0
THEY HAD A GOOD START AND PROTECTED THE POINTS UNTIL THE END.
THROWING BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
THERE WERE ONLY 5 HITS OFF HIM..
PRECISE PITCHING THAT CONCENTRATES ON LOW ONES.
Akikawa
WHAT'S MORE, THE MOMENT THEY TOOK THE LEAD, THE ATMOSPHERE LIGHTENED UP IN THE FIELDERS.
GUESS THEY TRUST HIM QUITE A LOT ...

THE GAME IS IN 3 DAYS, ON WEDNESDAY
TRUST!?
OUR NEXT OPPONENT
WON'T BE SO EASY THIS TIME.

21TH JULY—



LOOKS LIKE THIS YEARS SUMMER WILL OVERCOME THE AVERAGE
AW~ SO HOT
TODAY'S OVER 30°C AGAIN

THE PLAYERS, WHO GIVE THEIR ALL IN THIS HEAT, REALLY HAVE MY RESPECT.

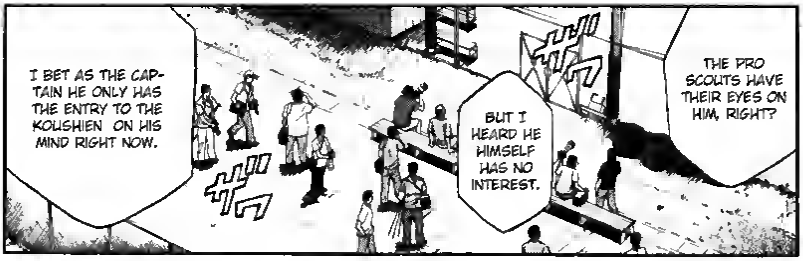
HE USED THEM TO GET THE COUNT UP
HE DOESN'T THROW A BREAKING BALL THAT OFTEN, BUT HE HAS A CURVE AND A FORKBALL
大災上
WHAT WE NEED TO BE WARY ABOUT IS HIS INCREDIBLE CONTROL.
HIS SPEED IS AROUND 130KM/H...
I'M AFRAID A WEAK PITCH RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE WILL RARELY COME.
FROM INSIDE HIGH TO OUTSIDE LOW
FROM OUTSIDE HIGH TO INSIDE LOW
HE SKILLFULLY AVOIDS THE BATTER BY USING THESE DIAGONALES

NOT TO BE SWAYED BY HIS PITCHES TO THE UTMOST CORNERS.
AND GETTING YOUR OWN SWING OUT WILL BE THE KEY TO CONQUER THIS PITCHER.
YEAH.
A HALF-ASSED SWING WILL JUST GIVE CONFIDENCE TO THE PITCHER.
TO SHATTER SUCH A CLEVER PITCHER, WE NEED MOBILITY AND BUNTS...
NO MATTER WHAT PITCH, SWING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT! DON'T FORGET THAT!

TRAKSTAR
YES!
I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT YOU GETTING ON BASE WILL PUT PRESSURE ON THE PITCHER.

UWA!
THEY DIDN'T WIN WITH 2 CALLED GAMES FOR NOTHING...
THEIR OPPONENT MUST BE INTIMIDATED TOO.
OHH..... AMAZING...
JUST LOOKING AT IT MAKES ME EXCITED

S
HE HAS THE RIGHT AURA.
ESPECIALLY THE CAPTAIN, YUUKI-KUN IS STANDING OUT...


I BET AS THE CAPTAIN HE ONLY HAS THE ENTRY TO THE KOUSHIEN ON HIS MIND RIGHT NOW.
BUT I HEARD HE HIMSELF HAS NO INTEREST.
THE PRO SCOUTS HAVE THEIR EYES ON HIM, RIGHT?

OBVIOUSLY!

SEIDOU REALLY CAUGHT THEIR EYE,
So tall
UWA~~~ LOOK AT ALL THESE REPORTERS.
MONTHLY "BASEBALL KINGDOM" REPORTER OOWADA AKIKO

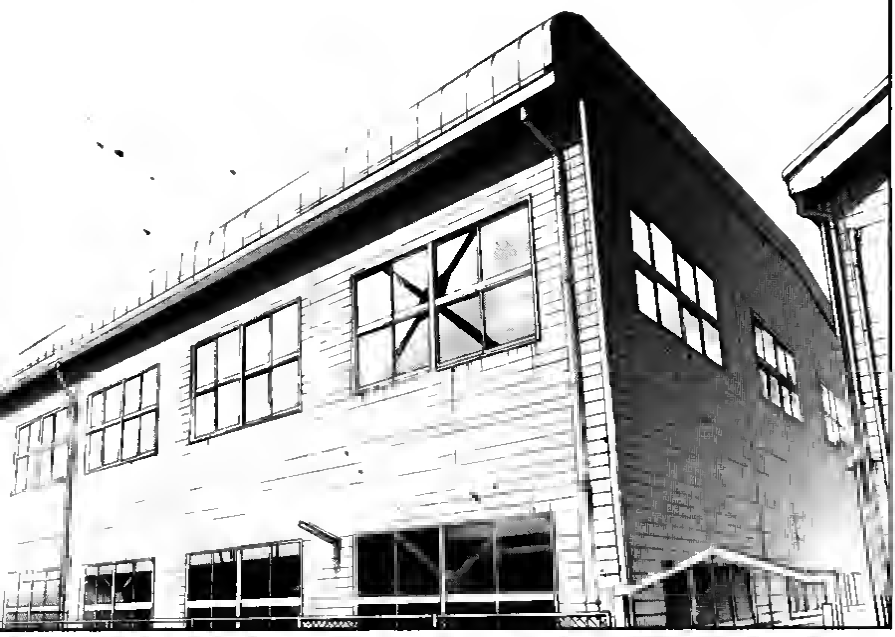
LIKE IF THEY CAN REVIVE THEIR POWERHOUSE HONOUR THIS YEAR UNDER THE LEAD OF THE YOUNG COACH KATAOKA
BECAUSE IT'S A TEAM THAT HAS A LOT OF MATERIAL FOR A GOOD ARTICLE...
GLARE
WHAT?
MONTHLY "BASEBALL KINGDOM" REPORTER MINE FUJIO
YOU JUST HAVE A GLASSES FETISH!
HIS GLASSES ARE JUST TOO AWESOME!
LAST YEAR THERE WAS YOUR ARTICLE ABOUT THE 2ND-YEAR MIYUKI-KUN~
I'M HIS FAN!
AH... YES!
WELL... EVERYONE HERE TODAY HAS THEIR EYES ON THE FIRST-YEAR PITCHER WITH THAT STRONG ARM.
LET'S GO TO THE BULL PEN TOO.

110
B- BASTARD! WHERE ARE YOU THROWING!? THAT WAS INTENTIONAL, WASN'T IT!?
SORRY!
SORRY, KANEMARU.
PUSHING YOU INTO THIS STRANGE ROLE.
NO..
WITH AN ACTUAL BATTER STANDING HERE, IT'S A MORE REALISTIC TRAINING AFTER ALL.
AND BESIDES, 7 OF THE 9 IN AKIKAWA'S BATTER ORDER ARE LEFT-HANDER.
More like this, huh.
FOR A SOUTH-PAW LIKE HIM, THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE FOR HIM TO GET IN.

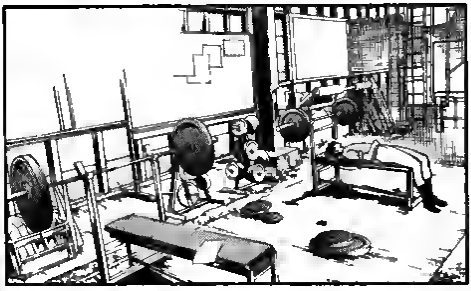
OKAY, BRING IT ON, SAWAMURA!!
WELL.. THE POSSIBILITY IS STILL CLOSE TO ZERO THOUGH.
KANEMARU...
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOUR BALL AT ALL!
HERE I GO! A INSIDE COURSE!!

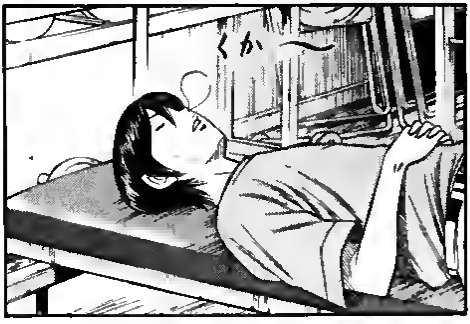
GOHA
THERE!!
THAT'S AN INTEREST-ING PITCH-ING FORM ...
Looks painful
BASTARD... YOU'RE REALLY DOING IT ON PURPOSE!!
SORRY!
NO!

AND THE ACE TANBA-KUN TRAINS WITH THE NET TOGETHER WITH THE COACH, HUH...
THE STAND-IN KAWAMURA-KUN AND THE FIRST-YEAR SAWAMURA-KUN IN THE BULL PEN,
おいっ～
SEEMS THE RUMOUR ABOUT HIM BEING INJURED IS TRUE.
BE IT THE 2ND OR 3RD ROUND, THE ACE DIDN'T GET TO THROW AT ALL.
カキーン
HUH?
AND WHERE'S THAT RUMOURED STRONG ARMED PITCHER?
BUT SHOULD IT BE TRUE, IT'LL BE A HARD SUMMER FOR THEM..
I DON'T KNOW...
NO MATTER HOW FAST HIS PITCHES ARE, FURUYA-KUN IS STILL JUST A FIRST-YEAR.



T- THAT GUY. SLEEPING SO PEACEFULLY IN A PLACE LIKE THAT..
NOT EVEN I CAN LAUGH ABOUT THAT.

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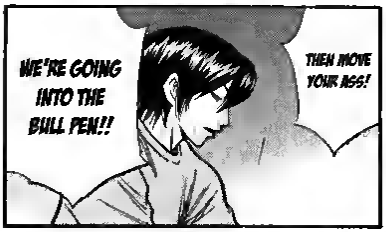
I DID...

GET UP!!
YOU DID YOUR RUNNING, RIGHT!?


WE'RE GOING INTO THE BULL PEN!!
THEN MOVE YOUR ASS!

OF COURSE IT'S HOT, IT'S SUMMER AFTER ALL!!
NO, IT'S SO HOT AND HUMID TODAY
LET ME REST SOME MORE..

YOU DIDN'T FINISH YOUR LUNCH TODAY EITHER, RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T EAT PROPERLY, YOU'LL COLLAPSE

THE TOURNAMENT IS RIGHT IN THE PEAK OF THE SUMMER...
WILL HE BE ALRIGHT?
....

BRACE YOURSELF WHILE YOU STILL CAN—
I'M WARNING YOU, THIS YEAR'S SUMMER IS HOTTER THAN USUAL.
!

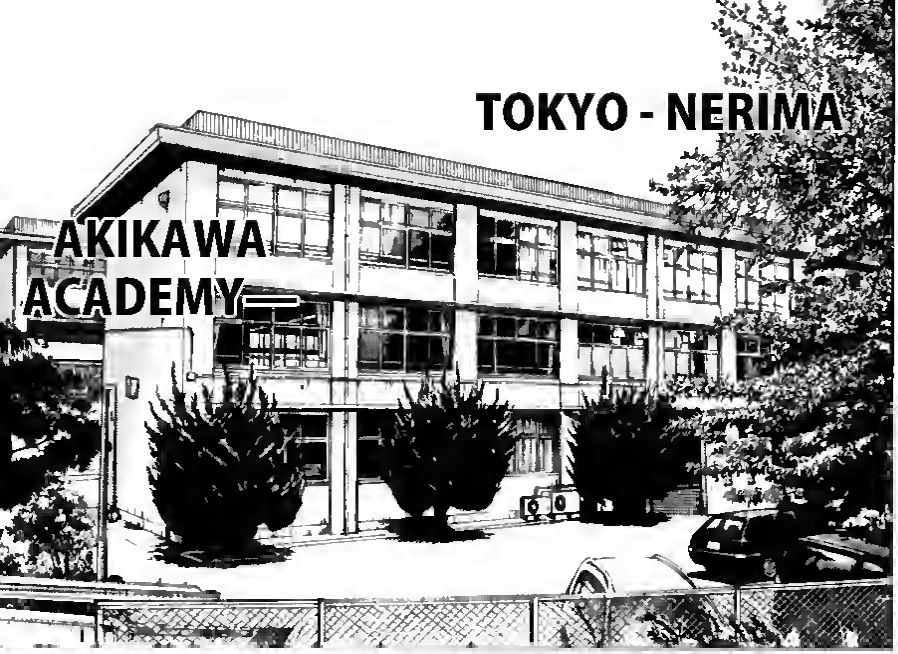
HE JUST CAME HERE THIS YEAR FROM HOK-KAIDOU...
I- I SEE...
HOT HOT HOT
HE'S EXPERIENCING A TOKYO SUMMER FOR THE FIRST TIME NOW...
COULD IT BE, HIS BODY CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THESE TEMPERATURES!?
青道

CHAPTER 71/ CROSS THE SEA

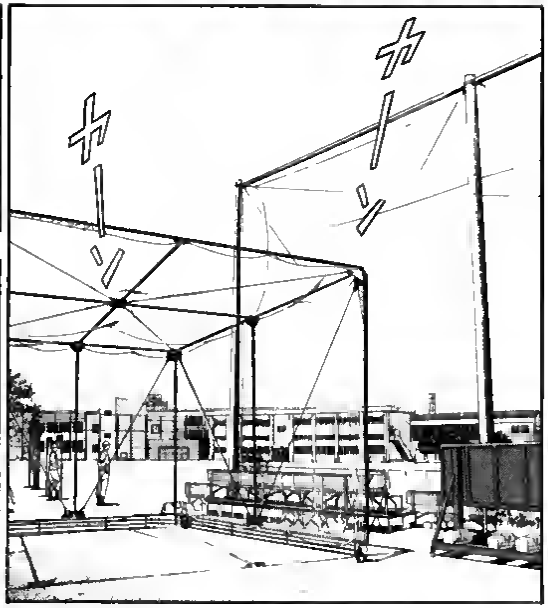
ん？

O-OHH
SO FAST!!
AND THAT SOUND! THERE'S QUITE A LOT OF POWER BEHIND IT!!
THE BALL GOT POWER
LOOKS LIKE USUAL, HIS SWITCH GETS TURNED ON AS SOON AS HE PITCHES...

I CAN STILL PITCH!
EH?
OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
GO COOL DOWN!
JUST LISTEN TO ME.
YEAH... WELL, THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOURNAMENT. GUESS THEY'RE CHECKING UP ON HIS CONDITION.
HE ONLY THREW LIKE 10 PITCHES
HUH... THEY'RE DONE ALREADY?
HAA...
HERE I GO!
BUT THE BOY ON THE OTHER SIDE HAS BEEN GOING FOR SOME TIME NOW.
OKAY!!
THE NEXT ONE FOR SURE!

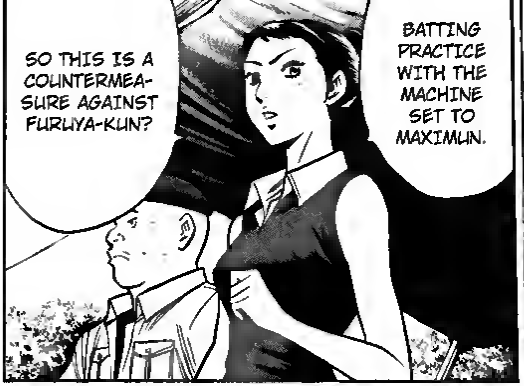

TOKYO - NERIMA
AKIKAWA ACADEMY

SHUT UP!
HEY, DON'T RUN AWAY!
WHO'S RUNNING AWAY! BRING IT ON!!

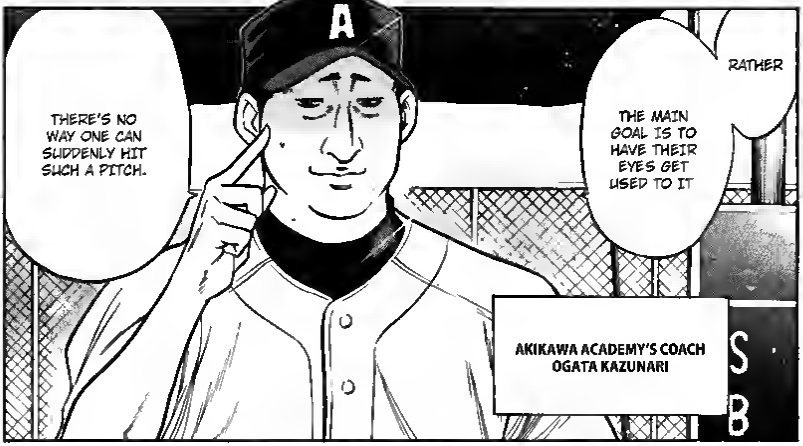


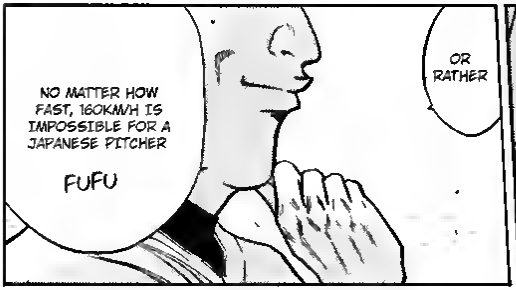
HERE IT COMES~

O-
OHHH ...
S- SO SCARY~ SO THAT'S 160KM/H.
YOU'LL REALLY DIE,
IF THAT HITS YOU!!

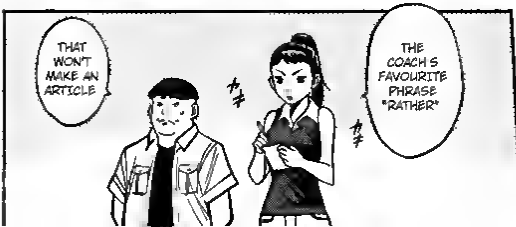

SO THIS IS A COUNTERMEASURE AGAINST FURUYA-KUN?
BATTING PRACTICE WITH THE MACHINE SET TO MAXIMUN.

I'M NEXT!
DON'T STAND SO CLOSE!


THERE'S NO WAY ONE CAN SUDDENLY HIT SUCH A PITCH.
RATHER
THE MAIN GOAL IS TO HAVE THEIR EYES GET USED TO IT
AKIKAWA ACADEMY'S COACH
OGATA KAZUNARI


NO MATTER HOW FAST, 160KM/H IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A JAPANESE PITCHER
FUFU
OR RATHER

ALL THE OPPONENT'S BATTERS TRIED THEIR LUCK AT FURUYA-KUN'S HIGH BALLS
IF ONE JUST BECOMES CAPABLE OF CALMLY OBSERVING HIS PITCHES..


THAT WON'T MAKE AN ARTICLE
THE COACH'S FAVOURITE PHRASE "RATHER"

NEXT... OUTSIDE AND LOW.

SORRY. . THAT GOT A BIT INSIDE.
THE NEXT ONE WILL BE ON COURSE.
DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART! THE NEXT ONE WILL BE THE SAME SPOT!
GAH～～ DAMN!! I SCREWED UP!!
SHUNSHIN CAN'T PITCH AT A NORMAL BULL PEN.
OR RATHER
EH!? THE ACE HIMSELF IS A BATTING PITCHER?
THIS IS THE PITCHING PRACTICE HE CAME UP HIM-SELF
"ONLY WITH A REAL MATCH, I CAN POLISH MY CONTROL"

EH!?
HE'S THROWING CLOSE TO 200 PITCHES A DAY.
...NEXT IS...
ALL COURSES.
OKAY, BRING IT ON!!
INSIDE OR OUT-SIDE?
WHAT WILL IT BE?

GAH~ DAMNIT!!
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE~
DON'T LAUGH —!!
FUFU
OUR SCHOOL MAINLY FOCUSES ON GOING TO COLLEGE, SO WE DON'T GET MUCH TRAINING TIME
OR RATHER.
UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO, IT WAS A GIVEN THAT WE WOULD LOSE AT THE FIRST ROUND
A REAL CONTEST WITH THE BATTER DURING FREE BATTING!?
OVER HERE!!
EFFECTIVE TRAINING IN THE LIMITED TIME, HUH?

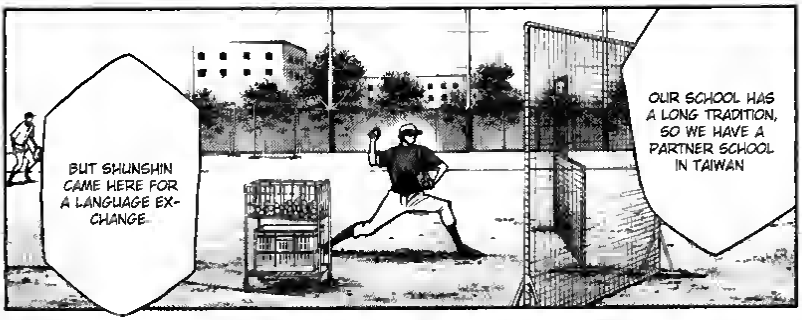
カーン
SHUNSHIN POLISHES HIS CONTROL IN FREE BATTING,
HE PITCHES IN THE COURSE THE BATTER IS WEAK AT.
JUST BECAUSE OF A SINGLE PITCHER
OUR WEAK TEAM WAS REBORN...
GLASSES...
I SEE...

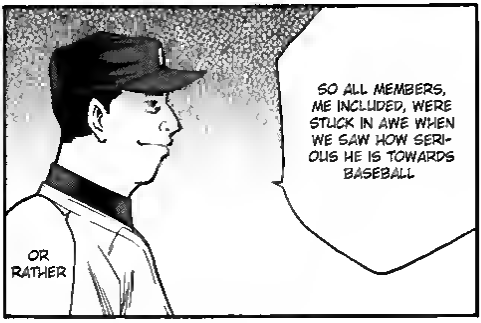
WAS BORN FROM THESE CIRCUM-STANCES...
HIS SO CALLED MACHINE-LIKE PRE-CISE PITCHING
YOU SHUNSHIN (2ND YEAR)

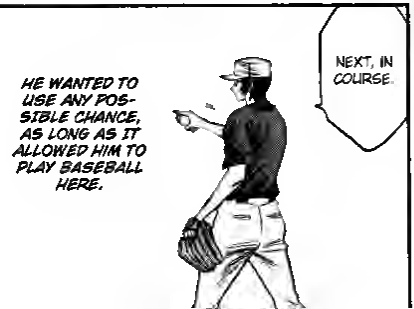
Even in his homeland, Taiwan
Japanese baseball is broadcasted.
The players playing on the TV,
The sparkling and lucent world,
And what moved his heart the most
Was the appearance of a Taiwanese player playing Japanese Pro Baseball.

AW~ HE STRUCK OUT~~
WHAT'S WRONG WITH LIN? THAT'S HIS FIFTH CONTINUOUS STRIKE OUT!!
...BUT
18
HE'S HAVING TROUBLE WITH HIS WEAKNESS ON THE INSIDE COURSE.
THIS IS NOTHING LIKE HIS PERFORMANCE LAST YEAR.
THE JAPANESE PLAYER...
ANALYZING THE OPPONENT, GRABBING HIS WEAKNESS AND EXPLOITING IT WITHOUT MERCY

SOMEDAY CHANGED INTO AN ADMIRATION OF JAPANESE BASEBALL—
THESE COMPLICATED FEELINGS OF HIS


BUT SHUNSHIN CAME HERE FOR A LANGUAGE EXCHANGE.
OUR SCHOOL HAS A LONG TRADITION, SO WE HAVE A PARTNER SCHOOL IN TAIWAN


SO ALL MEMBERS, ME INCLUDED, WERE STUCK IN AWE WHEN WE SAW HOW SERIOUS HE IS TOWARDS BASEBALL
OR RATHER


HE WANTED TO USE ANY POSSIBLE CHANCE, AS LONG AS IT ALLOWED HIM TO PLAY BASEBALL HERE.
NEXT, IN COURSE.

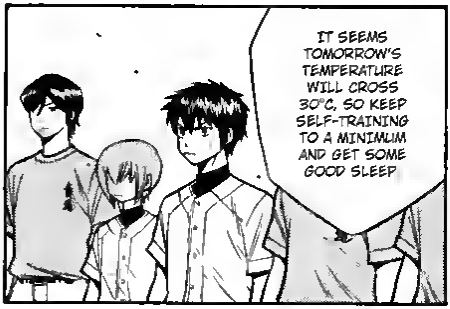
IS FOR HIS PARENTS, WHO SENT HIM HERE—
THIS PITCH
THIS PITCH
FOOD AND OTHER THINGS—
IS FOR HIS HOST FATHER THAT PROVIDED HIM WITH THE BASEBALL TOOLS
A

AND THIS PITCH...
ぐっ
IS FOR HIS TEAM-MATES
THAT ARE FIGHTING TOGETHER WITH HIM—

GAH～ THE OUTSIDE, HUH～
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LAUGH!!
Fufufu
WOW ...
IT'S JUST FREE BATTING, BUT EVERY SINGLE PITCH IS SO PRECISE.
ONE FIRST GLANCE, IT MIGHT LOOK AS A ONE-MAN TEAM OF YOU-KUN...
BUT THE OTHER PLAYERS ARE ALSO ENJOYING THEM-SELVES...
A TEAM RUNNING ON SUCH A DRIVE IS TERRIFICALLY STRONG.
EVEN IF THE OPPONENT IS SEIDOU, WE HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES AGAINST THEM—

CHAPTER 72/ ARE YOU SCARED?

DO SOME LIGHT WARM UPS UNTIL 8:30 AND THEN GET INTO THE STADIUM!
THE GAME BEGINS AT 10 AM..

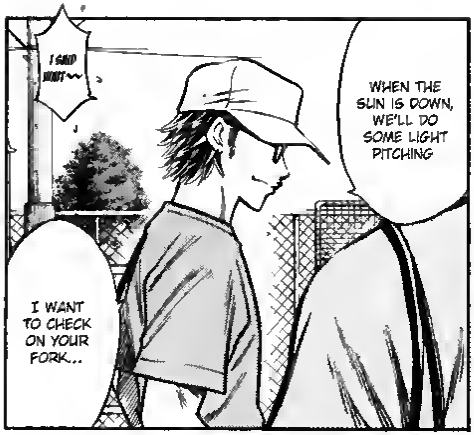

IT SEEMS TOMORROW'S TEMPERATURE WILL CROSS 30°C, SO KEEP SELF-TRAINING TO A MINIMUM AND GET SOME GOOD SLEEP

IN PREPARATION FOR TOMORROW'S GAME THE OFFICIAL TRAINING ENDS NOW!

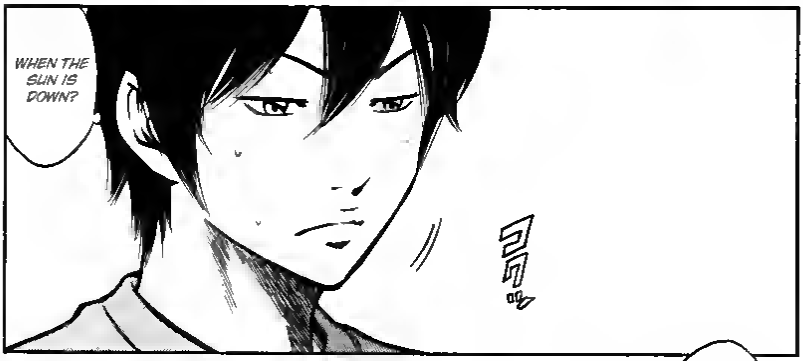
YES!!
DIS-
MISSED!!
HOW'S IT, TETSU? WANNA GO OVER TO AKIKAWA AGAIN AND TAKE SOME SHOTS?
NO, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THE GAME IS TO-MORROW...
ALREADY OVER? WHEN THE GAME IS TOMORROW?
HOW RELIABLE.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO SWING MY BAT.
NO, I'M DONE WITH SIMULATION.

HARUICHI!
UGA!
Me too
YOU PLAN TO RUN!?
AH! JUN-SAN, I WANT TO CHECK THE VIDEO!
I WANT TO WATCH THEM STEALING A BASE.
TEE BATTING LATER.
TAG ALONG ON MY
HAHA, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Y- YOU SURE YOU WANT ME?
EH...!?

HOW RARE FOR RYOUSUKE-SAN TO CALL OUT FOR HIS BROTHER.
HE SAYS ALL THAT, BUT THEY'RE BROTHERS AFTER ALL.
O- OKAY!
YOU CAN HIT SOME TOO.
LATER THAT IS...
HOLD IT, MIYUKI KAZUYA~
I CAUGHT IT YESTERDAY ALREADY,
YOUR PSEUDO STRAIGHT!
WHAT D'YOU MEAN PSEUDO!?
DON'T YOU WANT TO CATCH THE STRAIGHT OF THE EVOLVED ME!?
SHUT UP! DON'T CALL ME BY MY FULL NAME!!


I SAID WAIT~
WHEN THE SUN IS DOWN, WE'LL DO SOME LIGHT PITCHING
I WANT TO CHECK ON YOUR FORK...

HEY, FURUYA. LET'S LEAVE THE IDIOT HERE...
WAIT, HE'S AN IDIOT TOO
WAIT~


WHEN THE SUN IS DOWN?
ﾌﾗﾌﾗ

LISTEN! JUST SOME LIGHT EXERCISES, YOU HEAR!!

I GUESS THE EXHAUSTION FROM THE HEAT LATELY GOT TO HIM...
IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN FOR LONG, BUT HE WAS THE STARTING PITCHER FOR TWO GAMES!

AND HIS STRENGTH HASN'T DROPPED
IT'S HARD TO JUDGE...

YES!!
KAWAKAMI, BE READY FROM THE BEGINNING TOMORROW!

ON THE WAY TO VICTORY, THESE TWO ARE OBVIOUS ESCORTS.
EXHAUSTION FROM THE HEAT AND PRESSURE.

THAT'S WHY EVERYONE'S STRENGTH IS NEED TO WIN ...

THE STRENGTH OF THE WHOLE TEAM—

AS USUAL, YOUR SWING HAS NO HESITATION.
DURING THE GAME, DON'T JUST HELP SAWAMURA, GET YOURSELF READY TOO.
EH?
YOU GOT SWITCHED IN IN THE FIRST GAME,
THE COACH KEEPS USING THOSE WHO ARE IN A GOOD CONDITION
RIVIERA
AH... BUT, FOR A WHILE NOW, I'M ONLY SWINGING...
IT'S FINE, GO ON...

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I HAVE LEARNED.
STRUGGLING AT THIS POINT IS USELESS.
★ROTTWEILER★
BUT....
BUT I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR CLOSE TO AN HOUR NOW
C'MON, KEEP GOING!
SOMEHOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
SINCE I HAVE SPOKEN WITH HIM LIKE THAT...

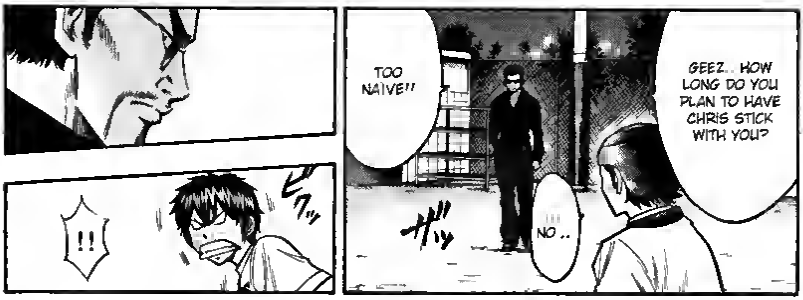
ALL OVER THE PLACE.
HIS PITCHES ARE REALLY
OOPS ...
YEAH~
CREWS
WELL... EVEN HE HIMSELF HAS NO IDEA WHERE THEY'RE GOING...

YES!!
SAWAMURA, NEXT IS A FOUR-SEAM
EHM ...
WAHAHAHA
YOU WANT TO DO THAT DURING THE GAME TOO?
IT WAS THIS, RIGHT
COME ON!
TEN MORE PITCHES AND WE'RE DONE

GUH... SO FUCKING CLOSE...

OF COURSE NOT!!
EH... IT'S NOT?
BASTARD!! YOU THINK IT'S FINE TO HIT ME, RIGHT!?
AN IN COURSE PITCH AGAINST A LEFT-HANDED BATTER.
TRAINING AGAINST AKIKAWA'S LINE-UP, HUH.
!

WHO'S A GENE-RAL!?
G-
GENERAL!!


!!
TOO NAIVE!!
NO..
GEEZ.. HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO HAVE CHRIS STICK WITH YOU?

EH!? WAIT... COACH..
HEY! GIVE ME THE BAT AND THE HELMET!!

TRY A PITCH.
AN IN COURSE ONE.
I- IT'S TOO DANGEROUS WITH JUST A HELMET!!
WHAT IF HE HITS YOU?
I DON'T MIND.

COME!
COULD IT BE THE COACH
FOR REAL!?
IS TESTING IF HE CAN USE SAWAMURA
IN TOMORROW'S GAME AS FURUYA'S RELIEF?!

UWAAA... WHAT PRESSURE...
I wouldn't want to throw now...
YOU SCARED OF HITTING ME?
WHAT'S WRONG? THROW ALREADY!
WITH THIS PRESSURE...
B- BUT IF HE MANAGES TO THROW AN IN COURSE
HAHA. I WAS RIGHT TO DROP BY HERE
THIS LOOKS INTERESTING.
ドクン
CREWS

S
ぐっ
ドン
UWAA
HE'S UP FOR IT—
CREWS

CHAPTER 73/
THE FOURTH ROUND

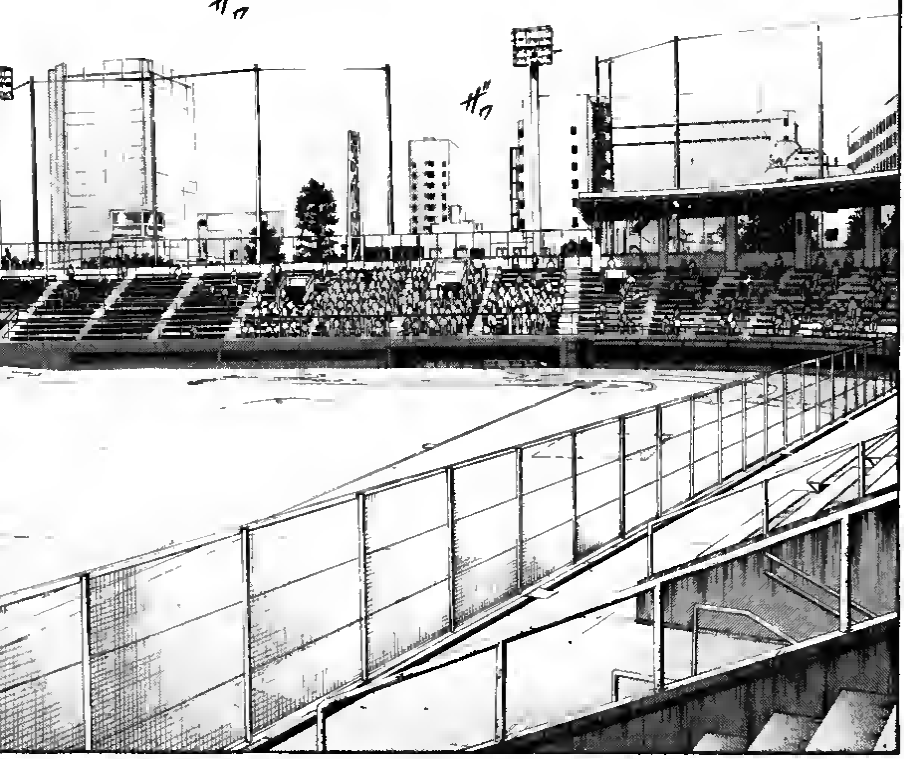
夏季大会3・4回戦2試合

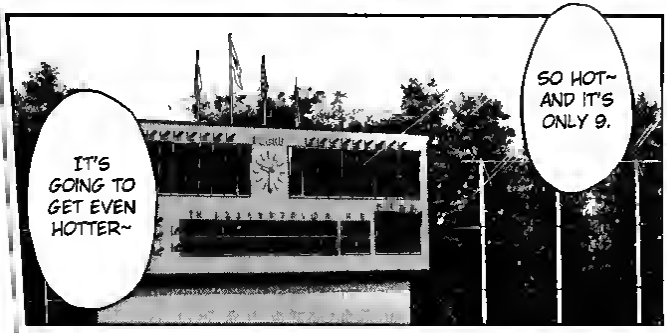
青道―明川

薬師―市大三

府中市民球場

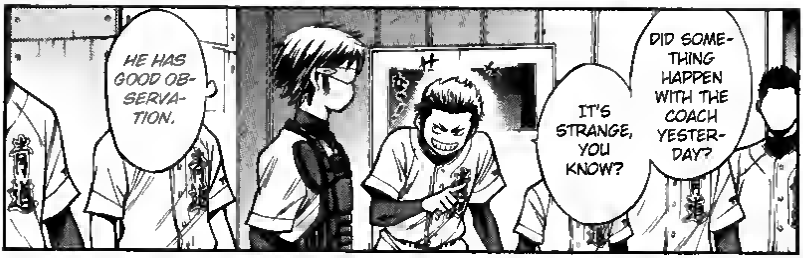
23TH JULY,
9:30 AM-----



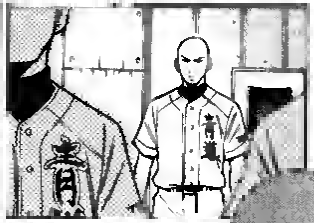


YES!
DON'T FORGET TO CONFIRM THE SIGNS!
WE'LL DO AS WE DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING.
2
3
8
10
WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS GAME WITH THE STRENGTH OF THE WHOLE TEAM!
YES!
I WANT THE PEOPLE ON THE BENCH TO SUPPORT THE PLAYERS BY SUPPLYING THEM WITH WATER.

FURUYA WILL BE PITCHING FIRST! I TAKE IT YOU'RE READY?
YES!
YES!
YES!
ALSO, KAWAKAMI AND SAWAMURA,
MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY ANYTIME, TOO.
HE INCLUDED SAWAMURA TOO, RIGHT?...
THAT'S RARE
HUH?


HE HAS GOOD OBSERVATION.
IT'S STRANGE, YOU KNOW?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH THE COACH YESTERDAY?

1
8



AND WHY ARE YOU SULKING THERE IN THE CORNER?
GO TAKE A SEAT ON THE BENCH.
'CAUSE IT'S BRIGHT.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO BURN YOUR HEAD!
UGG!!
JUST SPEAK NORMALLY!!
ポン
GUYS ....
SO TALL
LET'S GO!

ISA-SHI-KI~~!!
MASUKO~~~!
TETSU-SAN~~!!
FURUYA-KUN~~!!
青道
TOKYO
AH...
THEY CAME OUT!!
THE SEIDOU NINE!!

SEIDOU
MIYUKI~~!!
SEIDOU
SEIDOU!
TETSU~~!!
KATAOKA!!
OHH, WHAT AN AP-PLAUSE.
SEIDOU
COMPARED TO OUR...
WELL... THEY'RE BUSY WITH SUMMER SCHOOL.
THEIR STANDS ARE QUITE PACKED.
FURUYA~♡
THEY'VE GOT A BRASS BAND AND CHEER-LEADERS, TOO...

AFTER MEETING SHUN, WE CAME TO KNOW THE JOY OF WINNING!!
EVEN MY PARENTS TOLD ME TO QUIT BASEBALL ALREADY!!
Captain // Shiratori
THEY TOLD ME "WE DIDN'T PUT YOU IN AKIKAWA SO THAT YOU COULD PLAY BASEBALL"
HAHA. MINE ARE THE SAME.
Center // Ninomiya
WELL... NOBODY THOUGHT WE WOULD ACTUALLY MAKE IT THIS FAR.
Second Base // Tsushima
Third Base // Hashimoto
BUT
WE CAN'T QUIT NOW THAT WE CAME THIS FAR!

Akikawa
YUUMIN!?
JUST HOW MUCH OF A JAPAN FAN ARE YOU!?
IT CALMS MY HEART.
YUUMIN IS THE BEST AFTER ALL.
Akikawa

BY THE WAY, SHUN.
HOW'S YOUR CONDITION?
CON-DI-TION?
LIKE ALWAYS.
THROWING LIKE ALWAYS.
HOLDING DOWN THE BATTER LIKE ALWAYS.
THAT'S THE ROLE OF A PITCHER.
NO MATTER WHO THE OPPONENT IS.

ARE THERE ANY MORE RELIABLE WORDS?
フフ…
OR RATHER, LIKE SHUN SAID
NO MATTER WHO THE OPPONENT, JUST PLAY YOUR OWN BASEBALL!!
OKAY, LET US ENJOY THIS GAME TO THE FULLEST!!
YES!

SEEING AS AKI-KAWA ARE THE FIRST TO ATTACK, I BET THEY WANT TO OPEN THE SCORE AND GO AT THEIR USUAL PACE.
BASICALLY, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO HOW WELL YOU-KUN'S PITCHING WILL HOLD DOWN SEIDOU'S LINE UP.
BUT... SEIDOU HAS WITHOUT DOUBT THE BETTER CARDS.
EITHER SEIDOU, WHO MAKES IT INTO THE TOP FOUR EVERY YEAR---
明川
青道
OR AKI-KAWA, CEN-TERED AROUND YOU-KUN AND AIMING HIGH----
THE WINNER WILL AD-VANCE INTO THE BEST EIGHT.

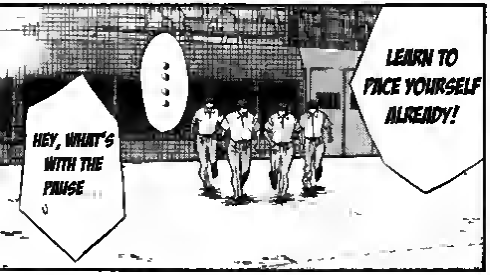
WITH THAT, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PITCH LIKE ALWAYS.

...

GOOD THING WE'RE PLAYING IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE HEAT IS STILL BEARABLE.

I PLAN TO PITCH UNTIL THE END TODAY.

HE REALLY THINKS IT, AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SCARY...
IN HIS CASE, HE'S NOT JUST PUTTING IT ON.


HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE PAUSE
...
LEARN TO PACE YOURSELF ALREADY!

...
GEEZ.

LET'S
LINE UP!!
GOOO

10:00 AM
The match Seidou vs. Akikawa starts.

AKIKAWA		SEIDO
NINOMIYA CENTER	1	KURAMOCHI SHORTSTOP
HASHIMOTO THIRD BASE	2	KOMINATO SECOND BASE
OONISHI SHORTSTOP	3	ISASHIKI CENTER
SHIRATORI RIGHT-FIELDER	4	YUUKI FIRST BASE
YOU PITCHER	5	MASUKO THIRD BASE
TSUSHIMA SECOND BASE	6	MIYUKI CATCHER
KUNIMI FIRST BASE	7	SHIRASU RIGHT-FIELDER
SEKIGUCHI CATCHER	8	SAKAI LEFT-FIELDER
TAKADA LEFT-FIELDER	9	FURUYA PITCHER

CHAPTER 74/ CONQUERING FURUYA

THE TOP OF THE FIRST INNING, AKIKAWA BEGINS IT'S OFFENSIVE.
NUMBER 1, CENTER, NINOMIYA-KUN.
HE WON'T BE FASTER THAN THE MACHINE〜
KEEP A GOOD EYE ON THE BALL, NINO〜〜!!
NOT USING THE ACE FROM THE START, EVEN IN THE FOURTH ROUND, THEY'RE REALLY OBSTI-NATE
THEIR STARTING PITCHER IS THE FIRST-YEAR FURUYA-KUN AFTER ALL.
MA-CHINE?

I WOULDN'T THINK THEY'RE PUTTING ALL THAT MUCH TRUST INTO THAT FIRST-YEAR PITCHER
IN THEIR TWO PREVIOUS GAMES, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE CALLED, HE NEVER GOT TO PITCH ALL THE PLAYED IN-NINGS.
THERE MIGHT BE SOME OTHER REASON FOR HIM TO BE THE START-ING PITCHER
IF THAT'S SO, IT MEANS WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT.
YEAH, MAKES SENSE...

LET'S DRAG THAT PITCHER DOWN FROM THE MOUND...
95
AND GET IN OUR OWN PACE.

PLAY BALL!!
THE BATTER ISN'T GRABBING SHORT?
BUT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THE PREVIOUS GAME
WELL, LET'S SEE HOW THEY REACT TO THE FIRST PITCH...

RIGHT HERE!
YOUR FAVOU-RITE HIGH ONE...
TOKYO

WHAT A SOUND!!
OHHHHH. TODAY AGAIN WITHOUT MERCY!!
IS HE REALLY JUST A FIRST-YEAH!?

O-OHHH... WHAT WAS THAT!?
AND I KEEP TELLING HIM TO PACE HIMSELF.
FULL POWER RIGHT OFF THE BAT, HUH
THE BUZZING GREW AS IT APPROACHES...
HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE IT... DIFFERENT FROM THE MACHINE, THE PITCH SEEMED TO BE ALIVE...
B-BUT...
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ME GIVE UP...

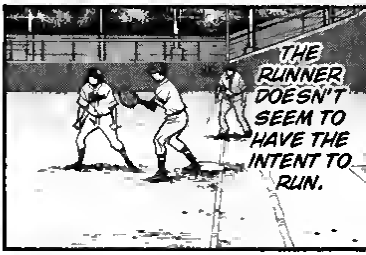
HE'S STILL GRABBING THE BAT LONG EVEN AFTER SEEING THAT PITCH...
COULD IT BE, THESE GUYS...

BALL!
FOURTH!!
YEAH!! NICE CHOICE!
GREAT, NINO〰〰!!

YEAH.
HE DIDN'T SWING AT ALL.
コラー
YOU'RE ONE TO SAY...
WALKING THE FIRST BATTER WITH FOUR BALLS IS THE WORST YOU CAN DO, FURUYA～!!
しゃお
NUMBER 2, THIRD BASE, HASHIMOTO-KUN.
HE'S GRABBING THE BAT LONG TOO...
I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT THIS SUCKS.

WON'T SWING AT ALL IN THIS INNING.....
THESE GUYS
TOKYO
2

GUESS THEY WANT FURUYA TO SELF-DESTRUCT BY LETTING HIM THROW A LOT OF PITCHES...
TCH...


THE RUNNER DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE THE INTENT TO RUN.

SEEMS FURUYA-KUN GOT A HARD START...
THEY CAN IDENTIFY HIS HIGH BALL, THE ONE THAT OTHER OPPONENTS ALWAYS WENT AFTER...
NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THEY CAN IDENTIFY IT.

EH!?
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION ON SWINGING.
BE IT A STRIKE OR A BALL,
THE FASTBALL PITCHER TYPE THAT GOES AFTER A STRIKE OUT, HAS NATURALLY A BIGGER PITCH COUNT....
UNLIKE THE TYPE THAT LETS HIT AND FIELD
BUT TO FURUYA-KUN IT MIGHT BE THE WORST POSSIBLE...
IT'S A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN

BALL!!
WHAT'S WRONG, FURUYA —!!
LET THEM SWING OUT LIKE ALWAYS!!
AWW～ THAT MAKES IT 1-3!!
OBVIOUSLY... AS IF A PITCHER WITH UNSTABLE CONTROL CAN WIN A GAME..
GREAT, HASHIMOTO ～!!
NICE CHOICE!!
THAT PITCHER ISN'T GETTING STRIKES.

IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME...
CONQUERING HIM
KAWA-KAMI!!
DAMN... I'M SO SWEATY ...

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER...
LOOKS LIKE YOU AREN'T UP FOR THIS...
THERE'S NO MORE USE FOR YOU.
EH!?

A SPLIT—!?
[SPLIT-FINGER FASTBALL]
R-
RIGHT
HERE!
2

RIGHT HERE!?
A SPLIT....
GUH
ズッ

CHAPTER 75/ ALIVE

!!
!
EH

BALL FOUR!!
AWW～ THAT'S THE 2ND WALK～
AND WITH ONE BOUNDING BALL...
IS FURUYA ALRIGHT?
T- THAT WAS A BREAK BALL RIGHT NOW, WASN'T IT?
WANTING A STRIKE IN THIS SITUATION...!?
HEY, I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT BATTERY.
AT THIS RATE THEY'LL SELF-DESTRUCT, RIGHT!?

NUMBER 3, SHORTSTOP, OONISHI-KUN
...
HE'S GOT NO CONTROL!!
KEEP YOUR GOOD EYE ON THE BALL, OONISHI!!
IT'S FINE. JUST THROW ACCORDING TO MY SIGN.
AGAIN—

WHOOPS
...
FUH
GEEZ.
NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT CATCHING SINCE THE DROP POINT VARIES
IF YOU WOULD JUST THROW YOUR STRAIGHTS LIKE THAT TOO..
BUT... JUST WITH THIS PITCH YOU'RE PITCHING WITHOUT TOO MUCH POWER

ABOUT TIME WE STOPPED!
WE GOT AN EARLY MORNING TOMORROW...
ボコッ
EH...?
I'M STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH MY PITCHES
PLEASE STICK WITH ME A BIT LONGER.
LIKE I SAID WE HAVE A GAME TOMORROW
YEAH, SURE, IGNORE ME AGAIN!!
MH?
I CAN ONLY THROW WITH ALL MY MIGHT ...

IF IT BENEFITS THE TEAM, I'LL THROW AS MANY AS IT TAKES.
YOU ...
I SEE... THE REASONS HE PITCHED FULL THROTTLE THROUGH THE LAST TWO GAMES...
WAS HIS OWN WAY OF RESPONDING TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF EVERYONE...

HOWEVER THE GAME TURNS OUT...
BRING THAT FEELING INTO TOMORROW'S GAME
WE ALL WILL
120
SUPPORT YOU—

STRIKE!

GREAT! NICE BALL!!
YOUR ARM IS SHAKING!!
JUST NOW... IT DROPPED!?
HUH?
NEXT, A STRAIGHT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE.
ズッ

HEY... WAIT... WHY IS HE SUDDENLY...
TOKYO
STRIKE TWO!!
KEEP THAT RHYTHM UP ...
YEAH! GREAT, FURUYA!
BALL!
EH, AND HE'S BACK TO IT~~
HE'S CHEERING, HUH
20
TOKYO

BATTER OUT!!
STRIKE!!
THAT TOOK MOST OF HIS STRENGTH...
GOOD...

WHAT NOW, COACH?
NUMBER 4, RIGHT-FIELDER, SHIRATORI-KUN
THROUGH-OUT THIS INNING!!
LET'S WAIT!!
THAT CATCHER...
TOKYO

STRIKE!
I- IT'S SINKING ...
NICE ONE, FURUYA!
SO HE CAN THROW A STRIKE AFTER ALL!
KEEP IT UP!!
THE BATTERS HAVE NO INTENTION TO HIT AT ALL!!

THE TEAM...
I'M KILLING YOU!!

I'M NOT ALONE.
THIS MOUND...
IS GIVING ME STRENGTH!

STRIKE, BATTER OUT!!
UH～～THAT BASTARD!!
WHAT IS IT!?
AFTER TWO WALKS, IT'S BEEN CONTINUOUS STRIKE OUTS
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM SO SUDDENLY

I WONDER HOW AKIKAWA, WHO WAS AIMING AT THE PITCH COUNT, WILL MOVE NOW.
WITH THAT, IT'S 2 OUTS AND A RUNNER ON FIRST AND SECOND
THERE HE IS.
THE KEY MAN OF THIS TEAM.
NUMBER 5, PITCHER, YOU-KUN

SO YOU MADE HIM THROW MORE BREAKING BALLS TO LOOSEN HIS STRENGTH?
MUST BE A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THE CATCHER IF THE PITCHER IS USELESS.
HAHA... NOT REALLY.
WE'RE NOT SCARED OF A TEAM THAT DOESN'T EVEN SWING.
ACTUALLY. YOUR JAPANESE IS GOOD.

THIS BATTERY...
WE NEED TO SMASH
THIS IS DANGEROUS ...
I'M GOING FOR A HIT,
COACH—

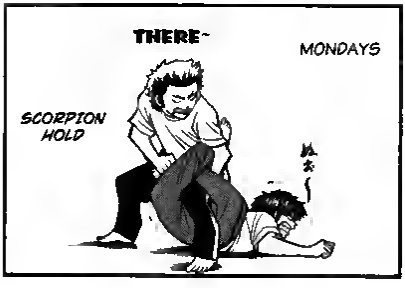
—STAFF—
栗栖正義　河端美穂子
山田聡子　齋藤優作
米澤孝知

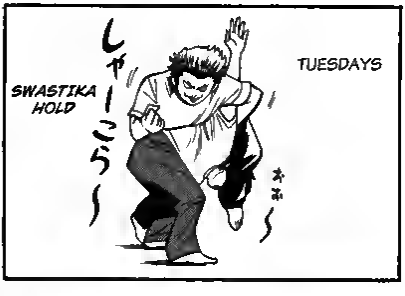
—EDITOR—
KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
MASAKATSU MINO
SHUJI SATO

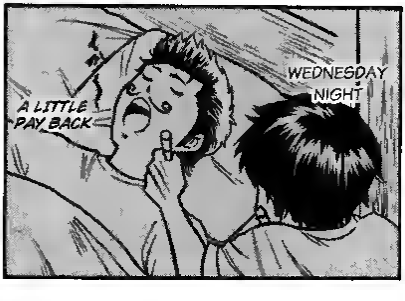
五輪予選の日本対韓国戦。
初回からまったく目が離せない展開に、
思わず仕事の手が止まりました。
一球一球、あんなに興奮する試合なんて
そうないよなぁ‥‥。
がんばれ日本代表！

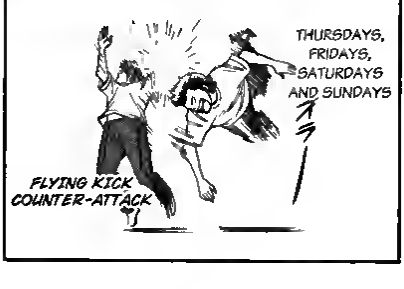
寺嶋裕二

SPARRING WEEK









SPECIAL
SENIOR AND JUNIOR

ORIGINAL T-SHIRT

A CHALLENGE FROM THE JUNIOR

SOMETIMES A BIT OF LECTURE...

DON'T EAT MY PUDDING! DON'T BULLY THE JUNIOR!
TODAY I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU A BIT AS YOUR SENIOR!
AH! SAWAMURA WROTE THAT!
T-TRAITOR! YOU TOLD ME TO WRITE IT ...
U...UGAR
LISTEN TO ME
GOT IT? EVEN WHEN GOING OUT INTO SOCIETY, THE SENIOR-JUNIOR RELATIONSHIP WILL
MH?
Pudding Idiot

THE SENIOR'S PRIDE!

精密機械
vs.
剛腕
冷静に青道を攻略する明川学園・楠！
明川の徹底的なウェイティングと容赦なく照りつける太陽が、降谷のスタミナを奪う…
試合序盤にして早くも山場、降谷は窮地を乗り切ることができるか!?
仲間の窮地に沢村登板も!?
ダイヤのA
Ace of Diamond
第10巻予告